DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgement is made of the amendment received on 10/19/08.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph E. Funk on 12/19/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

(1) In claim 1, line 13, change "the difference between them" to - - a difference between them - - ;

(2) In claim 3, lines 1-2, change "the frequency processing" to - - the frequency domain processing - - ;

(3) In claim 4, lines 1-2, change "processed in (c) " to - - processed in step (c) - - ;

(4) In claim 6, line 3, change "the direction" to - - a direction - -;

(5) In claim 15, line 3, change "the direction" to - - a direction - -;

(6) In claim 20, line 3, change "the direction" to - - a direction - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior arts of record Dogan et al (US 6018317) and Gardner et al (US 5299148) do not disclose (b) processing the eigenstreams for each signal of interest from step (a) to determine a optimal eigenweights for each signal of interest;(c) processing each of the sets of eigenweights and their associated eigenstream determined in step (b) by performing on each eigenstream time domain processing followed by performing frequency domain processing to determine revised eigenweights for each signal of interest; (d) comparing the eigenweights determined in step (b) to the revised eigenweights determined in step (c) for each eigenstream to determine the difference between them; (e) repeating steps (b), (c) and (d) for the eigenstream for a signal of interest only if the eigenweight difference determined in step (d) for the last mentioned eigenstream exceeds a predetermined value, and using the revised eigenweights from step (c) as the preliminary eigenweights in step (b) when steps (b), (c) and (d) are repeated; (f) converting the revised eigenweights for each signal of interest from step (c) to beam forming weights for each of the signals of interest when it is determined in step (e) that the eigenweight difference does not exceed the predetermined value.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELENE TAYONG whose telephone number is (571)270-1675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Liu Shuwang can be reached on 571-272-3036. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Helene Tayong/
Examiner, Art Unit 2611

December 15, 2008
/Shuwang Liu/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2611